

BGA Thank You Post

Thanks to all who participated, volunteered, and helped put on the October 4 'spro down in chi' town, hosted by Intelligentsia Coffee and Tea. Thank you [Doug Zell](#) for your key note speech and thank you [Mike Phillips](#) (new great lakes chapter rep) for your orchestration and hospitality. Thank you Intelligentsia (Chicago, IL), [Phoenix Coffee](#) (Cleveland, OH), and Alterra Coffee (Milwaukee, WI), for sponsoring this to be a sanctioned Barista Guild of America event.

The 'spro down in chi' town was a smashing hit.

The continued list of thank you's, highlights, and happenings follows below:

- [Turn out was great](#), we had around 60 people in house. An impressive show from as far as [Kaldies](#) (a crew of 9!) to [Cleveland](#), [Grand Rapids](#), [Ypsilanti](#), [Indianapolis](#). The Great Lakes Region stood up!
- We had [amazing coffees to taste from 13 roasters](#).
- We had Jacob from [La Marzocco](#) there representing from SEA, a [custom La Marzocco FB70 with preinfusion paddles and dedicated, PIDed boilers for each group](#). There was also the custom Intelligentsia Black Cat Mistral on hand, as well as a single group [Synesso](#) and the Intelly Training Lab Machines.
- We also had the pleasure to hang out with Ben from [Nuova Simenoli](#). He was there representing the [Aurelia](#), which is the [SCAA](#) and [WBC](#)'s new competition machine for the next three years.
- We had a dedicated group of presenters and [volunteers](#) helping out set up, take down, and lead the workshops that were available to all.
- [Sarah Kluth](#) from Intelligentsia led groups in cupping. [Alexandria Switzer](#), [Andy Atkinson](#), Dee Zeller, [Scott Lucey](#) led workshops in milk and espresso. [Sarah Wilson-Jones](#) and her [Phoenix crew](#) presented a triangulation challenge with ten different coffee from three different roasters. The Phoenix Coffee crew also presented a fabulous tea lecture, complete with the Chinese Gong Fu tea ceremony. We had [Jamin Haddox](#) from Cafe Imports there to give a great green coffee lecture which focused on moisture in green coffee and it's relation to storage issues. And thank you to [Tony Dreyfus](#) from Metropolis for his drip coffee lecture. Double thank you to Alexandria Switzer for getting all of us fed and satisfied.
- The applause-o-meter made it's debut in our latte art thowdown. The winner, Tayla Strader from Intelligentsia Broadway took first place honors winning a 4 piece, [hand made mug set from the great Kendall and Jon Lewis](#) as well as a LM poster set. The runner up, [Andrew Grassmick](#) was rewarded with a 2 piece mug set and LM interview book.
- [Jesse Crouse](#) from Intelligentsia Broadway held down a well patronized [brew bar](#), brewing up some of our best coffees per order for Chemex, Eva Solo, or Syphon.
- We also had [Blue Marble Milk in the house](#) with a representative opening the door to us for farm tours. (go Wisconsin!)
- Thanks Matt Riddle for photo and video. There's a [flickr group](#) with photos of the event, thank you to contributors.

Thank you again to everyone. This was a great event. Stay tuned to the [SCAA](#) and [BGA](#) for more upcoming events, like the [skill building workshops taking place November 7-9 in North Carolina](#), hosted by [Dilworth Coffee](#). [Click here to register now!](#)

